

14.2 *Enlightenment Europe* :: Theory & Revolution

- 1) **Theorists and Meta-Architects** influence architecture
 - **Marc-Antoine Laugier (1713-1769)**
 - **Essay on Architecture (1753)**
 - **The Primitive Hut** - theoretical concept of a return to the origins of architecture as a natural phenomenon and natural elements as well as rational and scientific construction technology
 - **Vitruvius** described a theoretical Primitive Hut as well
 - **Carlo Lodoli (1690-1761)**
 - Did not publish his treatise
 - **form follows function**
 - use of the term **organic**
 - rational architecture based on the strength of materials
- 2) Theories of origins spur a return to the roots of architecture
 - **original-source investigations** of **Greek** and **Roman** architecture leads to **Neoclassical movement** of the 2nd half of the 18th century
 - **GREEK - Antiquities of Athens (1762)** major publication a.k.a. **Stuart & Revett**
 - **James Stuart** (1713-1788) and **Nicholas Revett** (1720-1804)
 - Rediscovery of great monuments such as the **Tower of the Winds**, Greek theaters, Choragic Monuments to Lysicrates and Thrasylus and so on.
 - **ROMAN - Nolle Plan of Rome (1748)** major publication of map of contemporary Rome depicted as **figure-ground diagram**, in which all major public spaces (including streets) are light and all building fabric is shown as dark.
 - **Giambattista Nolli (1701-1756)**
 - Nolli assisted by Piranesi
 - **Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-1778)** Mostly Roman subjects, often imaginary
 - Meta-Architect — did not build much but **influenced many** through images and publications
 - Published many volumes of architectural plates (copperplate engravings) that were sold as souvenirs to British and others in Italy for the **Grand Tour**
 - Depicted very detailed and scenographic images of ruins, monuments, architectural features like obelisks, imagined **carceri** (prisons), imagined elaborate plans and reconstructions, tombs, and so on.
- 3) **Encyclopédie (1751-1765)** - in english: *Encyclopedia*
 - **Foundational publication of the Enlightenment**
 - **Editor-in-Chief** :: **Denis Diderot**
 - **Assistant Editor** for a time :: **Jean-Baptiste d'Alembert**
 - Frontispiece symbolizing *light* shining forth, as in *Enlightenment*
 - The Encyclopedia went against the doctrines of church and monarchy (the science and enlightenment of the individual countered the traditions and faiths of the monarchy and the church)
 - **Jacques-Francois Blondel (1705-1774)** — wrote the architectural articles in the Encyclopedia, espousing return to origins — i.e. pure forms, rational, geometric, much less ornament
 - Other authors included :: Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu, et al.
- 4) **Major architectural works of the Enlightenment**

- **Ange-Jacques Gabriel (1698-1782)**
 - Clear, crisp, articulate, volumetric classical (as Blondel suggested)
 - **Place de la Concorde** (a.k.a. **Place Louis XV**) on the north edge of the Place as twin government buildings shaping the space
Place de la Concorde was used during the Revolution as the public place for beheadings. Sim to the East front of the Louvre.
 - **Petite Trianon** at Versailles for Louis XV's mistress Madame Pompadour.
Very clear and crisp neo-classicism
- **Jacques-Germain Soufflot (1713-1780)**
 - Started as Ste. Genevieve — built from **1757-1792**
 - Structurally dramatic, use of structural iron, spatial flow of five interior domes, hellenistic decoration, clean, volumetric massing with proper details
- **Jacques Gondoin (1737-1818)**
 - **Ecole de Chirurgie** (1769) means *School of Surgery*
 - Classic Enlightenment building, in the form of a French hotel type that is used for scientific study, as opposed to merely being a house for a rich person
 - A four-row deep screen of ionic columns separates courtyard from street.
 - Small courtyard with arcade and expressed pavilion with the main lecture hall inside.
 - Lecture Hall of the School is a theater space steeply elevated to create a focused stage and with a half occurs above. **This room was a model for many subsequent governmental legislative halls in Europe and America...**
- **French Visionary Architecture** - an architecture that sought to reflect upon the sublimity and the immensity of *nature* as well as the divinity of *human intelligence* that is required to understand (and perhaps design) such profound works.
- **Claude-Nicolas Ledoux (1736-1806)** Architect
 - A *French Visionary* architect with some work focused on utopian projects
 - Worked often for King Louis XV
 - Architecture marked by strong volumetric forms and very inventive detailing
 - **Chaux Saltworks** in eastern France for the King
 - Number of **Barrières** (90) or thereabouts tax collector **Barrières** located around the city walls built during the 1770s and 1780s. Whenever a person entered Paris, they had to pay a tax. People resented it a great deal and this led in part to the anger behind the Revolution (1789)
 - The **Barrières** were wonderfully inventive classical forms of strong volumetric interest and variety. No two were alike.
 - Ledoux's design **Hotél Guimard** for Madame Guimard (a French hotel) of a screen of columns in front of an exedra. Very inventive. An American version of this was built at the University of Virginia by Jefferson (who loved French architecture)
- **Etienne-Louis Boullée (1728-1799)** Mostly a Meta-Architect
 - A *French Visionary* architect focused mostly on utopian and visionary projects
 - **Bibliothèque Nationale** project. Visionary, surreal, fantastical, vast, crisp clean classical architecture of strong volume
 - **Cenotaph to Isaac Newton**. Visionary, surreal, fantastical, vast, crisp clean classical architecture of strong volume